

# UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Friday, November 8, 2024

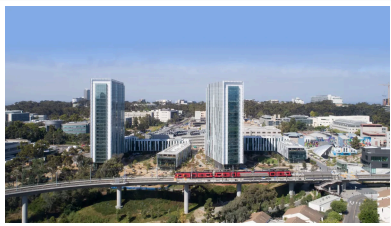
## More Giant Dorms






Berkeley isn't the only campus to build giant dorms. San Diego is building two of them. From [Times of San Diego](#):

UC San Diego has opened new apartment-style residence spaces, Pepper Canyon West Living and Learning Neighborhood, located on the eastern edge of the campus, in an effort to provide more on-campus housing. Perkins&Will, a international architecture and design firm with a studio in San Diego, shaped Pepper Canyon's two towers, one with 23 floors and the other 22. The project has direct access to the campus, with views of the city, ocean and mountains.

The \$352 million project provides units at below-market-rate rents to approximately 1,300 transfer and upper-division students, in an effort to create more affordable options in San Diego and on campus. The apartment-style spaces feature single occupancy rooms within suites, including a bathroom, kitchen and living area, according to UCSD housing...

Full story at <https://timesofsandiego.com/education/2024/11/02/ucsd-opens-2-pepper-tree-inspired-dorms-to-create-sense-of-community/>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:      

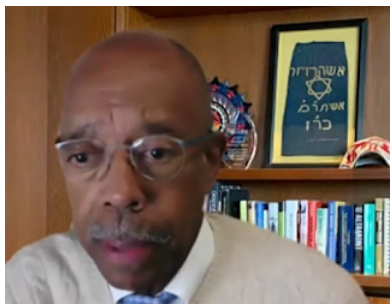
Labels: [enrollment](#), [UC-Berkeley](#), [UC-San Diego](#)

## Post-Election Statement

California's Public Higher Education Leaders Reassure Communities After Presidential Election







UC Office of the President, November 6, 2024

University of California President Michael V. Drake, M.D., California State University Chancellor Dr. Mildred García, and California Community Colleges Chancellor Dr. Sonya Christian released the following statement today, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024:



Following the presidential election results, we understand that there is a great deal of uncertainty and anxiety within California's higher education community. The University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges remain steadfast and committed to our values of diversity and inclusivity. We are proud to welcome students, faculty, and staff from all backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives, and we will continue to support and protect all members of our communities. California represents a beacon of hope for so many, and we stand ready to support our state and its people as we all move forward together.

Source: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/californias-public-higher-education-leaders-reassure-communities-after-presidential>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:      

Labels: [community colleges](#), [CSU](#), [diversity](#), [Drake](#), [UC](#)

Thursday, November 7, 2024

## More State Income Tax Revenue (but obligated) aka Good News/Bad News

### The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- [Faculty File Historic Academic Freedom Unfair Labor Practice Charges Against UC](#)
- [Union Letter to UC with Benefits Demands](#)
- [We Oppose Deprofessionalizing Librarians](#)
- [We Oppose AB-1418's Inadequate Protection from the Harms of Facial Recognition Tech](#)
- [We Oppose SB-1287's Restrictions on Protected Speech](#)

### Remaking the University

- [Liner Note 9. BONFIRE OF THE KNOWLEDGES \(PART 4\): Interpretation as Counterpower - 12/31/2024](#)
- [MLA and BDS 3: Letter from Current and Former Members of the MLA Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities to MLA Executive Director and Executive Council on Blocking the Debate - 12/30/2024](#)
- [MLA and BDS 2: Letter from former members of the MLA Executive Council to Current Executive Council on Blocking the Debate - 12/29/2024](#)

### Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- [Chronicle of Higher Education](#)
- [Inside Higher Education](#)
- [Remaking the University](#)
- [Changing Universities](#)
- [California Professor](#)

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- [UCSB Faculty Association](#)
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### Other Faculty Organizations

- [American Association of University Professors](#)
- [California Faculty Association \(NEA\)](#)
- [UC-AFT](#)

### Topics

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An email alert from the Legislative Analyst's Office (Jason Sisney) reports more income tax revenue than forecast for the current fiscal year through October. The income tax is the largest single source of revenue for the state:

Preliminary data from California's tax agencies shows that personal and corporate income taxes, combined, outpaced 2024 state budget projections for the month of October by \$1.2 billion (16%). **For the 2024-25 fiscal year to date, the income taxes are running \$5.2 billion (15%) above budget projections.** (In addition, 2023-24 General Fund revenue receipts were \$3.2 billion above 2024 state budget projections.)

**The vast majority of the revenue overage to date is already spoken for in the state budget—for example, to address:**

- school funding obligations (including maintenance factor accumulated due to the suspension of the Proposition 98 guarantee in 2023-24)
- costs from new ballot measures approved by voters
- costs due to savings efforts in the 2024 budget that fail to materialize
- future unfunded costs shown as operating deficits in the 2024 budget multiyear budget projection from the Department of Finance.

Moreover, the upcoming changes in the federal executive and legislative branches obviously may result in changes to programs that affect the state budget. In addition, the Governor recently proposed a significant expansion of the film and television tax credit.

Later this month, the Department of Finance's *Finance Bulletin* will include authoritative information on October revenues, including income, sales, and other taxes...

Posted by California Policy Issues at 6:25 AM No comments:

Labels: LAO, State Budget

The Way We Live Now (?)

From the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#): Before she returned to teaching last spring after a leave of absence, Amy Clukey braced for the possibility that her students might cheat with ChatGPT. She'd heard complaints from her fellow professors and thought, sure, that's not good. But plagiarism had never been much of a problem in her English classes.

"I was always, like, I'll create unique assignments and they will be somewhat plagiarism-proof, and some students will get by me," said Clukey, an associate professor at the University of Louisville. "But that's fine because most of them will be doing their own work, and it'll be great."

It wasn't great.

"I was just hit," she said, "by a student army of cheating." Students cheated on informal discussion-board prompts. They cheated on essays. A few weeks ago, she emailed a student to say that she knew the student had cheated on a minor assignment with AI and if she did it again, she would fail the course. Clukey also noted there were several missed assignments. The student replied to "sincerely apologize," said she was "committed to getting back on track," and that she regretted "any disruption [her] absence or incomplete work may have caused in the course." But her next paper was essentially written by artificial intelligence. Curious, Clukey asked ChatGPT to write an email apologizing to a professor for plagiarism and missed work.

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

"And what did it do?" she said. "It spit out an email almost exactly like the one I had gotten."

Talk to professors in writing-intensive courses, particularly those teaching introductory or general-education classes, and it sounds as if AI abuse has become pervasive. Clukey said she feels less like a teacher and more like a human plagiarism detector, spending hours each week analyzing her students' writing to determine its authenticity.

But it's not AI that has a lot of professors worried. It's what lies behind that willingness to cheat. While the reasons vary by student and situation, certain explanations surface frequently. Students are working long hours while taking full course loads. They doubt their ability to perform well. They arrive at college with weak reading and study skills. They don't value the assignments they're given. They feel like the only way they can succeed is to be perfect. They believe they will not be punished — or not punished harshly — if caught. And many, it seems, don't feel particularly guilty about it.

"When it's that widespread, it's a culture. It's not just an individual student. It is so many. And when I talk to some undergrads, they're like, 'Everybody does it.'"

Some institutions, including Middlebury College, in Vermont, and Stanford University, are reconsidering elements of their honor codes because they're simply not working. At Middlebury, the percentage of students who admitted on an annual survey to violating the honor code rose from 35 percent in 2019 to 65 percent in 2024. The most common self-reported violations were using unauthorized aids, such as SparkNotes or a friend, cheating on a test, and misusing AI.

In an online course, Clukey estimates that more than half of her students have plagiarized with AI. "When it's that widespread, it's a culture," she said. "It's not just an individual student, one out of an entire class or two out of the entire class. It is so many. And when I talk to some undergrads, they're like, 'Everybody does it.'"

When so many students admit to cheating, what does academic integrity mean anymore? Middlebury has been wrestling with this question as it undergoes an examination of its honor code, which states that students have a "moral obligation" to turn in classmates who cheat and largely does not allow professors to proctor exams. Those parts of the code could eventually be removed.

An interim report released in May by an honor-code-review committee found that, while campus culture generally affirms the value of academic integrity and that cheating is wrong, "the reality of daily practice suggests that the honor code has ceased to be a meaningful element of learning and living at Middlebury for most students."

Along with pointing to the sharp rise in students who admit to violating the honor code, the authors note that few students report others for cheating; there is widespread confusion about how violations are adjudicated; and many professors want to proctor exams. Widespread use of generative AI adds another layer of complexity, but the report makes clear that problems with the honor system go far beyond what's made possible with ChatGPT.

Many students, the report says, feel tremendous pressure to get A's; anything less is seen as a failure. As a result, grades matter more than integrity. In the student survey, only 34 percent of students said they felt guilty violating the honor code. Other reasons students say they cheat include confusion over what their professors define as cheating; the ease of cheating through phones, AI, and unproctored exams; and the pressure to cheat when you see your classmates doing so...

Full story at <https://www.chronicle.com/article/cheating-has-become-normal>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:



Labels: Middlebury, plagiarism, Stanford, U of Louisville

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

## Some Post-Election Day Thoughts



**A lot of folks need to reconsider what they thought they knew.**

**Those who need to rethink the most are likely to do it least.**

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:45 AM

No comments:



Labels: [miscellaneous](#)

## Some Retirement Programs for November

The Your UC Retirement System class offers an overview of retirement benefits offered by UC.

**WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?** This class covers UC's primary retirement benefits that provide a foundation for retirement income, and voluntary retirement benefits that offer additional saving opportunities in UC's 403(b), 457(b) and DC plans.



**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?** Employees who want to learn about the benefits offered through the primary and voluntary retirement programs and how they work together to help prepare for a financially secure retirement.

Schedule:

Thursday, Nov. 7, 9 AM

Monday, Nov. 11, noon

Monday, Nov. 18, 1 PM

Sign up: [https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ijclrx04Q7mPZIMcKN-2Yw#/registration](https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ijclrx04Q7mPZIMcKN-2Yw#/registration).

Posted by California Policy Issues at 12:35 AM

No comments:



Labels: [uc retirement](#)

## Warning

From [Forbes](#): "Cybercriminals are gaining access to email accounts," the FBI warned..., even when accounts are protected by multifactor authentication (MFA). Attacks begin when users are lured into "visiting suspicious websites or click on phishing links that download malicious software onto their computer."

Email access itself comes by way of cookie theft. Not the devilish tracking cookies that we read so much about, and which caused havoc when Google reversed its promise to eradicate them from Chrome. These are session cookies or security cookies or "remember me" cookies. They store credentials to stop you having to log in every time you visit a website or access one of your accounts.



The threat affects all email platforms providing web logins, albeit Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo and AOL are by far the largest. The same threat clearly impacts other accounts as well, including shopping sites and financial platforms, albeit there are now often additional protections in place, especially with financial accounts. MFA is not usually stored in the same way, and criminals use other means to steal live codes.

"Many users across the web are victimized by cookie theft malware," Google has warned, "giving attackers access to their web accounts." While "fundamental to the modern web... due to their powerful utility," Google describes security cookies as "a lucrative target for attackers," and that problem is getting worse.

"Typically, this type of cookie is generated when a user clicks the 'Remember this device' checkbox when logging in to a website," the FBI explains. "If a cybercriminal obtains the Remember-Me cookie from a user's recent login to their web email, they can use that cookie to sign-in as the user without needing their username, password, or multifactor authentication (MFA)."

Cookie theft has been much in the news recently, with ongoing efforts from Google and others to prevent such thefts from Chrome and other browsers. These latest such initiatives focus on linking cookies to devices and apps, rendering thefts useless. But we're at an early stage and cookie theft remains a major threat.

"Cybercriminals are increasingly focused on stealing Remember-Me cookies and using them as their preferred way of accessing a victim's email," the FBI warns, but provides four suggested actions "to protect yourself from putting yourself at risk:

- Regularly clear your cookies from your Internet browser.

- *Recognize the risks of clicking the 'Remember Me' checkbox when logging into a website.*
- *Do not click on suspicious links or websites. Only visit sites with a secure connection (HTTPS) to protect your data from being intercepted during transmission.*
- *Periodically monitor the recent device login history from your account settings."*

*As ever, if you think you may have fallen victim to this or any other cybercrime, you can report it to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at [www.ic3.gov](https://www.ic3.gov)...*

**Full story at** <https://www.forbes.com/sites/zakdoffman/2024/11/02/fbi-warns-gmail-outlook-aol-yahoo-users-hackers-gain-access-to-accounts/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [12:30 AM](#) No comments:      

Labels: [email fraud](#)

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